

1 CLAIMS

2 1. A method of synchronizing objects between a first device and a
3 second device, wherein the first device is capable of communicating with a storage
4 volume that can become inaccessible to the first device, the method comprising:

5 identifying storage volumes currently accessible to the first device; and
6 synchronizing objects contained in storage volumes that are currently
7 accessible to the first device.

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9 2. A method as recited in claim 1, further including:
10 identifying storage volumes previously accessible to the first device but not
11 currently accessible to the first device.

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13 3. A method as recited in claim 1, further including:
14 identifying storage volumes previously accessible to the first device but not
15 currently accessible to the first device; and
16 while synchronizing, ignoring objects stored on storage volumes that are
17 not currently accessible to the first device.

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19 4. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein each object comprises a
20 plurality of data items, and wherein the synchronizing step further comprises
21 synchronizing data items in one object with corresponding data items in another
22 object.

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24 5. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the objects are databases.
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1 6. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the first device identifies
2 storage volumes currently accessible to the first device.

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4 7. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the storage volume that can
5 become inaccessible to the first device is a removable memory card configured to
6 be inserted into the first device.

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8 8. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the first device is a portable
9 computing device.

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11 9. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the second device is a
12 desktop computer.

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14 10. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
15 the second device continuing to monitor and record changes to objects
16 stored on storage volumes that are inaccessible to the first device.

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18 11. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising:
19 when a storage volume that was previously inaccessible becomes
20 accessible, synchronizing objects stored on the previously inaccessible storage
21 volume.

1 **12.** One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer
2 program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim
3 1.

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5 **13.** A method of synchronizing objects between a portable computer
6 and a base computer, the method comprising:

7 storing an object on a removable storage device, wherein the removable
8 storage device is configured to be inserted into and removed from the portable
9 computer;

10 creating an association between the object and a corresponding object on
11 the base computer; and

12 synchronizing the object stored on the removable storage device with the
13 corresponding object on the base computer if the removable storage device is
14 inserted into the portable computer.

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16 **14.** A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the object comprises a
17 plurality of data items and the corresponding object on the base computer
18 comprises a plurality of corresponding data items.

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20 **15.** A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the object comprises a
21 plurality of data items and the corresponding object on the base computer
22 comprises a plurality of corresponding data items, and wherein synchronizing the
23 object further comprises synchronizing data items in the object with the
24 corresponding data items in the corresponding object on the base computer.
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1 **16.** A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the portable computer
2 determines whether the removable storage device is inserted into the portable
3 computer.

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5 **17.** A method as recited in claim 13, further comprising:
6 the base computer continuing to monitor and record changes to the object
7 when the removable storage device is not inserted into the portable computer.

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9 **18.** One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer
10 program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim
11 13.

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13 **19.** A method of synchronizing objects between a portable computer
14 and a base computer, the method comprising:

15 identifying storage volumes currently accessible to the portable computer,
16 wherein each storage volume contains at least one object and wherein each object
17 contains a plurality of data items; and

18 synchronizing only objects contained in storage volumes that are currently
19 accessible to the portable computer.

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21 **20.** A method as recited in claim 19, further comprising:
22 identifying storage volumes previously accessible to the portable computer
23 but not currently accessible to the portable computer.

1 **21.** A method as recited in claim 19, further comprising:
2 identifying storage volumes previously accessible to the portable computer
3 but not currently accessible to the portable computer; and
4 while synchronizing, ignoring objects stored on storage volumes that are
5 not currently accessible to the portable computer.

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7 **22.** A method as recited in claim 19, wherein the portable computer is
8 capable of communicating with a removable memory card configured to be
9 inserted into the portable computer.

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11 **23.** A method as recited in claim 19, further comprising:
12 the base computer continuing to monitor and record changes to objects
13 stored on storage volumes that are inaccessible to the portable computer.

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15 **24.** One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer
16 program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim
17 19.

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19 **25.** One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a
20 computer program comprising the following steps:
21 identifying storage volumes currently accessible to a first device;
22 identifying removable storage volumes previously accessible to the first
23 device but not currently accessible to the first device; and
24 synchronizing only objects contained in storage volumes that are currently
25 accessible to the first device.

1 **26.** One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 25 further
2 comprising:

3 during a synchronization process, ignoring objects stored on removable
4 storage volumes that were previously accessible to the first device but are not
5 currently accessible to the first device.

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7 **27.** One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 25,
8 wherein the removable storage volumes that are not currently accessible to the first
9 device are removable memory cards configured to be inserted into the first device.

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11 **28.** One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 25 further
12 comprising:

13 continuing to monitor and record changes to objects stored on removable
14 storage volumes that were previously accessible to the first device but are not
15 currently accessible to the first device.

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17 **29.** An apparatus comprising:
18 a communications module;
19 a data store that contains a list of accessible storage volumes and
20 inaccessible storage volumes of a peripheral computer; and
21 a desktop synchronization manager coupled to the communications module
22 and the data store, wherein the desktop synchronization manager is configured to
23 synchronize objects stored on accessible storage volumes of the peripheral
24 computer.
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1 **30.** An apparatus as recited in claim 29 wherein the inaccessible storage
2 volumes are removable memory cards configured to be inserted into the apparatus.

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4 **31.** An apparatus as recited in claim 29 wherein the apparatus is desktop
5 computer.

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7 **32.** An apparatus as recited in claim 29 wherein the desktop
8 synchronization manager is configured to continue monitoring and recording
9 changes to objects stored on inaccessible storage volumes.

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11 **33.** An apparatus as recited in claim 29 wherein the desktop
12 synchronization manager is configured to continue monitoring and recording
13 changes to objects stored on inaccessible storage volumes, and wherein the
14 desktop synchronization manager is further configured to synchronize objects
15 stored on inaccessible storage volumes after an inaccessible storage volume
16 becomes accessible.

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